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5 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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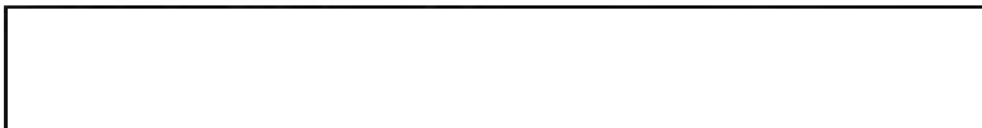
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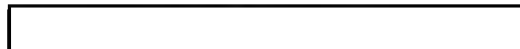
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Iraq-Syria: (New moves toward union between Syria and Iraq may be imminent.)

(The Syrian Government and the Baath Party in Syria have recently issued several statements implying that some form of union between the Baath governments in Iraq and Syria would be announced. The question of Syrian-Iraqi union will be high on the agenda of the conference of the international leadership of the Baath Party which is scheduled to meet soon in Damascus.)

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(Syria has in the past week moved some troops into Iraq, and several reports state that some Iraqi troops have been moved recently to Aleppo, in northern Syria.)

(The Iraqi leaders may be somewhat less anxious than the Syrians for immediate union. The Iraqi radio has not yet broadcast the Syrian statements on the subject in full. However, pressure to take a step toward the Baath ideal of full Arab union may overcome any reluctance on the part of Iraqi party members.)

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*Honduras: Although Central American governments are criticizing the military overthrow of the Honduran Government, they are not likely to propose strong measures against the new military regime.

These governments will probably reject a policy of nonrecognition because of their traditional adherence to the doctrine of nonintervention. They also recognize the necessity to work with the Hondurans in furthering regional economic integration through the Central American Common Market.

The foreign ministers of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua plan to meet in Managua, Nicaragua, on 6 October to adopt a common policy toward the Honduran military regime.

President Schick of Nicaragua has already publicly condemned the coup, but he was careful to avoid offending the Honduran military in order to adhere to the "nonintervention principle."

While lamenting the coup in a conversation with a US Embassy officer on 3 October, the acting foreign minister of Guatemala said he understood the necessity for it and personally thought Guatemala would recognize the Honduran regime fairly soon "if the usual conditions were met."

A Costa Rican Government official indicated that his government may have to reconsider its long-standing policy of not recognizing unconstitutional regimes since it would be impossible to achieve economic integration if Costa Rica continued to deny recognition to other members of the Central American Common Market.

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Venezuela: The Venezuelan Government apparently expects the extreme left to react violently to the Supreme Court decision of 3 October against the Communist Party (PCV) and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

The court upheld President Betancourt's decree suspending the PCV and MIR and excluding them from the forthcoming elections. It is still unclear whether the ruling gives the government the necessary legal basis to continue detention of Communist and extreme leftist congressmen.

A Communist student leader is said to have stated on 3 October that if the arrested congressmen are not released at the end of 96 hours, as provided in the constitution, the Communists would launch an all-out campaign of violence.

Although President Betancourt has scrupulously avoided any actions of doubtful constitutionality in the past, the minister of interior has told Ambassador Stewart that an executive decree will be issued empowering military courts to try persons accused of terrorist acts.

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*Brazil: Reaction to President Goulart's request that congress declare a state of siege has been varied, and the outcome remains uncertain.

Goulart supporters failed to obtain a quorum on 4 October to consider the matter, raising the possibility that no vote will be taken until early next week. Indications are that the government will have difficulty gaining approval of the measure with most conservative and some extreme leftist deputies reportedly expressing opposition.

Leaders of the armed forces appear to be backing Goulart's proposal, however, as a means of restoring order and countering the threat of a general strike by the Communist-dominated General Workers Command. The military have been concerned over the growing unrest resulting from serious strikes in Sao Paulo and other cities and from reaction to Guanabara Governor Carlos Lacerda's "unpatriotic" statement earlier this week.

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NOTES

West Germany: The Bonn government is considering the sale of some 300,000 to 350,000 tons of wheat flour to the Soviet Union. According to the Foreign Ministry, license applications for an initial shipment of 35,000 tons have already been approved. The US Embassy surmises that the cabinet is putting off a final decision on the proposed deal until Erhard takes over.

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